

State of Connecticut

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE CAPITOL

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

March 18, 2008

The Honorable Donald E. Williams
President Pro Tempore
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106

The Honorable James A. Amann
Speaker of the House
Legislative Office Building, Room 4100
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear President Williams and Speaker Amann:

We request your intervention and assistance in encouraging the Governor to initiate formal talks between the State of Connecticut and the state's federally-recognized tribal nations on the subject of smoking at the casinos.

We believe the adverse health effects of second-hand smoke are widely known and accepted. We also strongly support the state's existing law banning smoking in most public places, including most public establishments with alcoholic liquor permits. Further, we believe that it is in the best interests of the employees and visitors of the casinos to move towards a smoking ban at both gaming facilities.

However, we believe that the owners of the state's two casinos, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and The Mohegan Tribe, have raised legitimate concerns relative to self-governance and sovereignty. We believe the spirit of the gaming compact between the state and the tribes—an agreement between legally recognized government entities—calls for respectful consultation with the tribes on major public policy interests of the state that may impact tribal and casino operations in significant ways.

Therefore, we request that you make a formal joint request to the Governor to commence talks between the State of Connecticut and the state's two federally-recognized tribal nations on this important topic. We believe strongly that such government to government talks—before any legislative action—is the most effective and appropriate vehicle for achieving a smoke-free environment at the casinos.

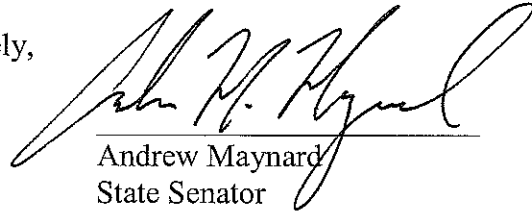
Leading with a respectful and consultative approach will preserve the partnership between the state and the tribes and may actually accelerate achieving the legitimate public health objective of a smoke-free environment at the casinos.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Andrea Stillman
State Senator



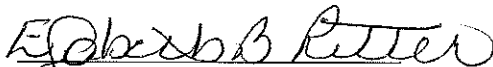
Andrew Maynard
State Senator



Tom Reynolds
State Representative



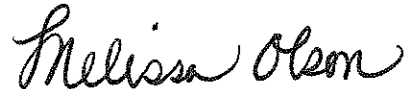
Kevin Ryan
State Representative



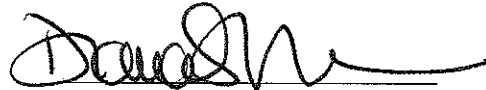
Elizabeth Ritter
State Representative



Jack Malone
State Representative



Melissa Olson
State Representative



Diana Urban
State Representative



Ed Jutila
State Representative



Steven Mikutel
State Representative



Ernest Hewett
State Representative



Elissa Wright
State Representative



Ted Moukawsher
State Representative